

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-03 COME-00 H-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01

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P R 081140Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7153

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOME 0064

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: EMIN, PFOR, TO

SUBJ: TOGOLESE PHOSPHATES

REF: LOME 0043

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT EYADEMA REASSURED CTMB PRESIDENT ROBERT AND STOCKHOLDER REPRESENTATIVES ON 7 JANUARY THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF HALTING PHOSPHATE SHIPMENTS BUT SOUGHT ONLY TO ENSURE THAT 1974 CONTRACT PRICES WERE COMMENSURATE WITH NEW WORLD PRICES. WHILE PRESIDENT'S REASSURANCES ARE WORTH LITTLE, IT DOES NOT SEEM VERY LIKELY, IN VIEW GREAT GAINS HE HAS ALREADY ACHIEVED, THAT HE WILL NATIONALIZE COMPANY AT THIS TIME. END SUMMARY.

1. CTMB LOCAL MANAGER SALESSE REPORTED TO ME LATE 7 JANUARY THAT CTMB PRESIDENT ROBERT AND REPRESENTATIVES OF FRENCH SZOCKHOLDERS HAD FINALLY SEEN PRESIDENT EYADEMA MORNING OF SAME DAY, AFTER WHICH THEY DEPARTED BY PRIVATE JET FOR PARIS.

2. ACCORDING SALESSE, EYADEMA WAS CORDIAL AND CONCILIATORY. HE SAID HIS VISITORS SHOULD HAVE NO FEAR THAT GOT  
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INTENDED HALT PHOSPAHTE SHIPMENTS. (SALESSE SAID ONE SHIP WAS

LOADED 7 JANUARY UNDER 1974 CONTRACT AT NEW PRICES.) PRESIDENT SAID GOT SIMPLY CHECKING CONTRACTS TO MAKE SURE NEW PRICES WERE COMMENSURATE WITH PRESENT WORLD PRICES. HE DID NOT MENTION QUESTION OF GOT TAKEOVER OF SALES (REFTEL).

3. COMMENT: PRESIDENT'S ASSURANCES ARE WORTHLESS. I HAVE HAD SUFFICIENT EXPERIENCE WITH HIM TO KNOW THAT HIS GENTLEST COMMENTS OFTEN PRECEDE BY VERY LITTLE HIS HARSHTEST ACTIONS. HIS FRIENDLY, REASSURING ATTITUDE THUS MEANS NOTHING ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. HE MAY, FOR ALL WE KNOW, HAVE DECIDED THAT GOT HAS ALREADY OBTAINED SUFFICIENT CONCESSIONS FROM COMPANY TO MAKE UNWORTHWHILE ANY FURTHER PRESSURE - EVEN FOR CONTROL OF SALES. AT SAME TIME, ONE CANNOT BE SURE HIS APPETITE - GREATLY WHETTED BY RECENT FINANCIAL SUCCESSES - WILL NOW BE RADILY SATISFIED, EVEN BY MASSIVE CONCESSIONS ALREADY GRANTED BY ROBERT. SALESSE BELIEVES, AND I OF COURSE AGREE, THAT NEXT CRU-CAIL DATE IS 12 JANUARY SPEECH WHICH PRESIDENT CUSTOMARILY MAKES ON EVE OF 13 JANUARY ANNIVERSARY OF 1967 COUP (AND 1963 MURDER OF OLYMPIO). LAST YEAR HE HAD ONLY SATURDAY HOLIDAY TO GIVE WORKERS. THIS YEAR, ENCOURAGED BY PROSPECT OF PHOSPHATE RICHES, HE MAY DECREE MUCH NEEDED ACROSS-BOARD PAY INCREASE FOR GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYEES. HE MAY ALSO, AS SALESSE FEARS, ANNOUNCE "VICTORY" OVER FOREIGN COMPANY, WHICH HE CAN CLAIM TO HAVE FORCED TO HAND OVER EXCESS PROFITS RIGHTFULLY BELONGING TO TOGOLESE PEOPLE. OUTRIGHT NATIONALIZATION OF CTMB SEEMS A LESS LIKELY, THOUGH EVER PRESENT, POSSIBILITY.

4. AF/W BISHOP. PLEASE PROVIDE FOREGOING ESTIMATE TO GRACE'S GEORGE BLACKWOOD.  
DOCKINSON

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## Message Attributes

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